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**From:** Stacey Parker  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2015 11:05 AM  
**Subject:** PRESS RELEASE 04/14/15 - Annual Sewer Line Replacement Projects in Progress

## **PRESS RELEASE**



**City of Norman**  
**201 West Gray**  
**Norman, Oklahoma 73069**

For Immediate Release: April 14, 2015

Contact: Norman Utilities Authority, (405) 366-5443

### **NORMAN UTILITIES AUTHORITY** **ANNUAL SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS IN PROGRESS**

The Norman Utilities Authority (NUA) recently awarded a contract for almost \$2.9 million to Urban Contractors, LLC of Oklahoma City for replacement of about 38,000 feet, or over 7 miles, of old deteriorated sewer lines. The project is a continuation of the Sewer Maintenance Program initiated in 2003 and funded by the \$5 per month monthly maintenance fee approved by voters in 2001 for this purpose. Late last year, the NUA awarded a similar contract for approximately \$2.7 million to PM Construction of Pasadena, TX for replacement of 32,000 feet, or 6 miles, of sewer lines.

These two concurrent projects are in progress this year. The contract with Urban Contractors is generally bounded by Lindsey Street to the North, Bishop Creek to the West, Imhoff Road to the South, and 24th Avenue SE to the East. The other contract with PM is generally bounded by Boyd Street to the north, Imhoff Creek to the west, Timberdell Road to the south, and Elm Avenue to the east.

The primary means of replacing the sewer lines will be by the pipe bursting method. The contractor will dig a pit on either end of a straight run of the main sewer line, then insert a cable, or mechanical links from one end to the other. They will then break up, or "burst" the old pipe while pulling the new High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe underground. Since they do not dig a trench the entire length to replace the pipe, the technique is a boring equivalent, frequently termed "no-dig" or "trenchless."

The newer technology which the Utility Authority has been using for the last several years replaces the old cracked and leaking pipe. In addition to all new sewer mains, the project benefits include all new service taps for each existing home and business in the project area. This does not include new plumbing on private property, but only the public portion of the customer's service line. However, the City's contractor will re-connect to each customer's private service line.

There is a need to dig a small hole for each service line re-connection to the new HDPE line. Some of the main sewer lines may require open trenching, particularly if the line is shallow, requires realignment, or there is a required change of depth or slope. Every manhole in the project area is cleaned, inspected for leaks and either rehabilitated or replaced.

Another benefit is elimination or reduction of infiltration of rain water into the sewer, which saves the Utility and its customers money by reducing flow to the Water Reclamation Facility and its treatment costs. The Authority has measured flow in some areas before and after rehab work to insure the reductions occur, particularly during significant rainfalls. Data collected to date shows a significant decline of inflow since 2003 due to this ongoing replacement program.

Many sewer lines are located in back yards between houses. The contractor should notify residents with a door hanger a few days in advance of working in their yards. The contractor will work with each resident on an individual basis as needed. When dogs or small children may be present, temporary fences can be installed until the work is completed. Restoration of yards and fences will be made as soon as the work in that area is complete; usually within 2 to 3 weeks.

If you have any questions concerning this project, you may contact the Norman Utilities at 405-366-5443 or Urban Contractors at (405) 478-5370.

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